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BENNETT PRAISES EFFORT TO "POWERUP" UTAH KIDS

New Computers Will Help Underprivileged Utah Kids Prepare for Digital Future

SALT LAKE CITY – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today joined in launching Utah's first PowerUP site and praised efforts to ensure that all Utah children will have access to technologies that will prepare them to succeed in the Information Age.

"Computers are finding their way into American homes at a much faster rate than earlier technologies like the telephone and television. But the speed at which they are becoming available to all who need access to them may still not be fast enough," said Bennett. "This site will help bring technology to a large number of children who will use skills developed here to one day perform their own online job searches, e-mail their resumes, and receive their first paychecks by direct deposit."



PowerUP – a nationwide effort of partners Gateway, America Online, Sun Microsystems, and others -- established this site at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salt Lake, 968 East Sugarmont Drive, where young Utahns can use new computers and online access with the assistance and supervision of trained adult volunteers. Gateway donated 15 new computers and will provide volunteers to assist children at the site. America Online has contributed Internet access for the computers at the PowerUP site.

Bennett, chairman of the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force, has participated in the launching of other PowerUP sites around the country and will continue to spend significant time on efforts aimed at eliminating the so-called "digital divide." Bennett will travel with President Clinton Monday, April 17 to events in California and New Mexico to highlight public and private-sector initiatives to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans. He is also an original co-sponsor of the Millennium Classrooms Act, a bill to provide tax incentives to encourage the donation of high-quality computers to schools, libraries, senior centers and other educationally focused nonprofit organizations across the country. The bill recently passed the Senate 96 to 2.



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<http://www.senate.gov/~bennett>